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February 24, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Truth Coordinating Committee

FROM: John Hughes
Chairman, Project Truth Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Project Truth

REFERENCE: William Clark Memorandum, February 6, 1982

In our judgment the most time-and-resource efficient means of improving the inter-Agency Project Truth mechanism and upgrading the efforts of individual participating Agencies is a White House clarification of the Project Truth mandate.

Accordingly, we propose that such a document from the National Security Council to the heads of participating foreign affairs Agencies designate the Project Truth Coordinating Committee, consisting of top officials representing these Agencies, as the body charged with coordinating the public affairs dimension of U.S. foreign policy.

The Coordinating Committee can delegate the authority and responsibility for overall public affairs strategy to the Project Truth Policy Group under the Executive Committee which should be charged with ongoing coordination of sustained information campaigns on major policy objectives as defined by the Policy Group.

The actual production of support materials for Project Truth initiatives by participating Agencies is best done by inter-Agency working groups — some of which are already efficiently in action (i.e., the EUR group on "Shaping European Attitudes"). A logical organizational measure would be the establishment of such inter-Agency groups by each geographic bureau. These groups can provide area expertise for foreign policy themes which impact on other geographic areas as well (i.e., the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan; the situation in El Salvador, etc.).

It is essential to a strengthened Project Truth effort that participating Agencies understand that the White House mandate authorizes the Coordinating Committee and its executive bodies to order participating Agencies either to produce or refrain from activity in accordance with the overall public affairs strategy developed through the Project Truth mechanism.

Absent this clear authority there can be no genuine government-wide coordination of public affairs support for U.S. foreign policy initiatives and Project Truth would continue to function as a valuable clearinghouse for the exchange of information on the activities of participating Agencies. These unprecedented gains represented by the existing Project Truth mechanism can and should now be consolidated by the White House.

NSC review completed.

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